

This comment is in relation to the Video Relay Service provided for deaf and hard of hearing consumers. In the first place, I must commend the FCC for sponsoring VRS. This has made communication for the deaf and hard of hearing with the hearing world much easier. Secondly, it has come to my attention that the FCC is considering reducing the payment to VRS services effective July 1, 2004. In my opinion, this will reduce the quality of video relay sign language interpreters; it will mean a longer wait for the availability of interpreters, and an insufficient level of improvement in VRS technology. Please reconsider this new reduced rate. Many deaf and hard of hearing people rely on VRS to communicate effectively and efficiently with the hearing world. Thank you for your consideration.